

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 EURE-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ACDA-05 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 OPR-02 OC-05 CCO-00

SY-05 SCCT-01 SSO-00 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 CU-02

OMB-01 /093 W
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P R 281818Z MAY 75
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2920
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
ZAN/AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
USMISSION NATO
DIA WASHDC
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 3000

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PO
SUBJ: POLITICAL ROUNDUP

1. REPUBLICA AFFAIR: THE PRESS COUNCIL ANNOUNCED IN AN ADVISORY OPINION ON MAY 28 THAT THE REPUBLICA WORKERS WERE IN VIOLATION OF SECTIONS OF THE PRESS LAW BUT ALSO THAT REPUBLICA MANAGEMENT HAD NOT MET SOME OF THE TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS. COUNCIL ADDED THAT PRESS LAW NEEDS TO BE REWRITTEN TO ACCOMMODATE SUCH REVOLUTIONARY SITUATIONS. COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER JESUINO SAID THAT REPUBLICA MIGHT BE ON STREETS AGAIN IN DAY OR TWO.

2. PS WITHDRAWAL FROM GOVERNMENT: THE PS ATTENDED A SPECIAL MEETING OF CABINET TODAY ON ANGOLA QUESTION. SOCIALISTS MADE CONFIDENTIAL

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SPECIAL EXCEPTION TO THEIR WITHDRAWAL FROM GOVERNMENT ON BASIS

THAT THEY WERE THE ONES WHO HAD PREVIOUSLY COMPLAINED ABOUT THE FAILURE OF THE AFM TO CONSULT THE CABINET ON AN ISSUE AS IMPORTANT AS ANGOLA.

3. SOARES RETURN: SOARES HAS RETURNED FROM HIS TRIP TO VISIT EUROPEAN SOCIALISTS. HIS STATEMENTS SO FAR HAVE BEEN VERY LOW KEY.

4. NATO SHIP VISIT: A SMALL CONTINGENT OF NATO SHIPS, INCLUDING ONE US DESTROYER, ARRIVED IN LISBON MAY 28 FOLLOWING STANAVFORLANT EXERCISES. UDP HAS SCHEDULED AN ANTI-NATO DEMONSTRATION THREE BLOCKS FROM THE EMBASSY ON EVENING OF MAY 28.

5. COMMENT: SOCIALIST SOURCES TELL US THAT REOPENING OF REPUBLICA MAY PROVE TO BE "POISONED GIFT" WITH REGO STILL IN AS EDITOR BUT EFFECTIVE CONTROL IN THE HANDS OF THE COMMUNIST-INFLUENCED TYPESETTERS. ONE PS WRITER TOLD US THAT THEY WERE THINKING OF SETTING UP A SEPARATE "NEW REPUBLICA" USING OFFSET OR OTHER PROCESS THAT WOULD NOT REQUIRE LARGE STAFF OF TYPESETTERS.

6. PS NO LONGER SHOWING SIGNS THAT IT WILL FORCE A REAL SHOWDOWN WITH MILITARY. A PAPERED-OVER COMPROMISE SEEMS TO BE IN THE WORKS. FACT THAT PS AGREED TO ATTEND CABINET MEETING AND HAS MUTED ITS VOICE SUGGESTS THAT, ABSENT SOME CONCILIATORY MOVE BY REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL, SOCIALISTS WILL COME OUT OF LATEST CRISIS SAVING FACE, BUT WITH NET LOSS.

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